

State of Vermont to prosecute police officers charged with obstruction of justice. While a partner at Sheehey Furlong Rendall & Behm, Tom's firm represented the State of Vermont in its litigation against the tobacco industry. And of course I must discuss one of Tom's finest accomplishments, his 1979 graduation from St. Michael's College in Colchester, VT, my alma mater.

Tom has a keen legal and will bring a great deal of experience and enthusiasm to this important law enforcement post. Congratulations to Tom, his wife Wendy, and his entire family on his confirmation today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Thomas D. Anderson, of Vermont, to be United States Attorney for the District of Vermont for the term of four years?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to legislative session.

The Senator from Michigan.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—Continued

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as a result of the extraordinarily hard work, dedication, and cooperation, on a bipartisan basis, of every one of our committee members, and our extraordinary staff, as well as the assistance of really superb floor staffs on both sides of the aisle, we have just seen a unanimous passage of the Defense authorization bill.

As I mentioned before, this is a real tribute to our chairman. I am going to save all the accolades, however, for still a later time. When the chairman brings back a conference report, we will then, hopefully, have enough people here on the floor who can both join in the kudos and hear the applause for our chairman.

Our staff loses a great deal of sleep to get this bill passed. And there is never enough attention that is paid to staff. No matter how many times we take a moment to just say thanks to our staff, it never comes close to paying the tribute which is really owed to them.

Charlie Abell, who is the majority staff director, is just a wonderful human being as well as a gifted professional. He and all the other members of your staff, I say to Senator WARNER, are really, really terrific. And I cannot say enough about Rick DeBobes, Peter Levine, and all of the members of my staff. Rick, our minority staff director, leads a truly extraordinary staff.

Mr. President, I guess the best way I can express my gratitude is to ask that the names of my staff be printed in the

RECORD at this time. I ask unanimous consent that a list of their names be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Jon Clark, Chris Cowart, Dan Cox, Madelyn Creedon, Rick DeBobes, Brie Eisen, Evelyn Farkas, Richard Fieldhouse, Creighton Greene, Bridget Higgins, Mike Kuiken, Gary Leeling, Peter Levine, Mike McCord, Bill Monahan, Mike Noblet, Arun Seraphin.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, also, talking about accolades, I want to single out Senator CANTWELL for an amendment which she authored relative to the replacement of National Guard equipment that has been left in Iraq and Afghanistan. The absence of this equipment has undermined the ability of the National Guard units to train and to meet the requirements in their home States. And the Cantwell amendment is going to require the Department to establish a comprehensive plan to recapitalize or to replace this equipment.

It is going to be an essential addition, replacement for the National Guard. There was not enough attention paid to this amendment as things kind of flew through here. I want to thank Senator CANTWELL for her leadership in making sure our National Guard is well equipped and given the support they deserve.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, if I might join my distinguished colleague from Michigan, it has been a privilege for me, as it has for these 28 years we have been together, to work as partners and in many respects equals. He has been chairman of the committee. I have been chairman of the committee. We have both occupied positions of chairman and ranking member in these many years that we have been fortunate to serve on this committee together, and we have a very outstanding group of colleagues who are members of the committee. I thank my good friend for these many years. I am very proud, as he is, of this piece of legislation, which at this critical juncture in our Nation's history, with our forces serving in over 60 Nation across the world, and their families here at home are with them, we have them in mind at all times and, indeed, a very significant group of Civil Service employees who likewise are serving our Nation in their capacities with the Department of Defense and other departments and agencies related to our national security.

Senator LEVIN mentioned particularly our senior staff, our full staff, as a matter of fact. In many ways, some of the juniors work harder than seniors some days, but I won't get into that. I best leave that to my able staff director, Charlie Abell, as you leave that to your staff director. But we are fortunate to have these two staff directors and these magnificent staffs. They

really are professional staffs. The appointment of our staff, I don't even recall inquiring as to the political affiliation of so many of these individuals that I have had the privilege of working with these many years in the Senate. But indeed, they do work long hours. Their reward is not the pay. Their reward is a sense of satisfaction, as it is for you and me and members of our committee and, indeed, the Members of the Senate, of what we are trying to do on behalf of the uniformed men and women of the Armed Forces and their families and their civilian counterparts.

I thank my distinguished colleague.

I ask unanimous consent that S. 2766, as amended, be printed as passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed immediately to the consideration en bloc of S. 2767 through S. 2769, Calendar Order Nos. 427, 428, and 429, that all after the enacting clause of those bills be stricken and that the appropriate portion of S. 2766, as amended, be inserted in lieu thereof, according to the schedule which I am sending to the desk; that these bills be advanced to third reading and passed, the motion to reconsider en bloc be laid upon the table, and that the above actions occur without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The bill (S. 2767) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as amended.

(The text of the bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The bill (S. 2768) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military construction, and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as amended.

(The text of the bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SECURITY ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007

The bill (S. 2769) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for defense activities of the Department of Energy, and for other purposes, was considered,